

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

L-02 /037 W

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O R 211130Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9167

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1 1 1 5

FOR AF/W - BISHOP AND AMBASSADOR RAWLS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO

SUBJECT: WARNING NOTE TO GOT ON NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA AGAINST
US

REF: LOME 978 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED PROGRAM OF TV BROADCASTS FOR 20-26 MAY, RECEIVED YESTERDAY, TOGOLESE GOVT-OWNED AND OPERATED TV STATION WILL BROADCAST FILM OF NORTH KOREAN ACROBATS' PERFORMANCE WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MAISON DU RPT ON APRIL 25 AND 28 (REFTEL). AS REPORTED, PERFORMANCE INCLUDED POLITICAL PROPAGANDA SKITS RIDICULING US. AS PRESIDENT EYADEMA ATTENDED APRIL 28 PERFORMANCE, HIGHLY PROBABLE TV FOOTAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOT THAT NIGHT. IF PROPAGANDA SKITS ARE BORADCAST THIS SATURDAY NIGHT, HARM TO US IMAGE MAY BE GREATLY COMPOUNDED BY SCENES OF PRESIDENT ENJOYING SHOW.

2. PROPOSE THEREFORE TO SEND FOLLOWING NOTE TO FOREIGN OFFICE UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS. AMBASSADOR RAWLS SHOULD BE INFORMED ASAP. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY NIACT IMMEDIATE.

3. TEXT OF NOTE (ARTICLES OMITTED/USUAL OPENING) "AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO RECENT PERFORMANCES IN TOGO OF VISITING ACROBATS OF DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO EMBASSY'S
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NOTE NO. 38 OF APRIL 28, 1975 CONCERNING ANTI-AMERICAN

PROPAGANDA SEQUENCES WHICH WERE PRESENTED AS PART OF ACROBATS' APRIL 25 PERFORMANCE IN LOME AND REQUESTING MINISTRY TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF THOSE PROPAGANDA SEQUENCES ON APRIL 28.

EMBASSY NOTES FROM SCHEDULE OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS TO BE PRESENTED BY RADIODIFFUSION TELEVISION DE LA NOUVELLE MARCHE IN PERIOD MAY 20-25 THAT ON SATURDAY, MAY 24 AT 9:00 P.M. PROGRAM "ARTISTES ET VARIETES" WILL FEATURE "KOREAN ARTISTS IN AN ACROBATIC SPECTACLE AT MAISON DU RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS."

MINISTRY IN ITS NOTE NO. 2086 OF APRIL 29 REGRETTED THAT IT HAD NOT HAD ENOUGH TIME "TO STUDY WITH TOGOLESE AUTHORITIES COMPETENT IN SUBJECT, MEASURES TO TAKE WITH AIM OF RESPONDING TO EMBASSY'S CONCERN." MINISTRY ASSURED EMBASSY THAT "TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE, AS IN PAST, TO GRANT TO ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN TOGO ON DIPLOMATIC LEVEL, EQUAL TREATMENT WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION." EMBASSY TRANSMITTED MINISTRY'S NOTE TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 7 WITH AN EXPLANATION OF INCIDENT.

EMBASSY SUBMITS FOR MINISTRY'S INFORMATION SIX PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING ACROBATS' APRIL 28 PERFORMANCE WHICH ILLUSTRATE TWO OF PROPAGANDA PIECES TO WHICH EMBASSY OBJECTS. IT IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING, FROM PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPH PRINTED IN TOGO-PRESSE ON APRIL 25, THAT THIRD SUCH PIECE ENTITLED "INTERLUDE OF THE SHOESHINE BOY", MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN PERFORMED; EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS PIECE, IN WHICH ACTOR REPRESENTING AMERICAN SOLDIER IS DRAGGED ACROSS FLOOR OF STAGE, TO BE HIGHLY OFFENSIVE.

IN VIEW OF FORTHCOMING TELEVISION BROADCAST AND MINISTRY'S PAST ASSURANCES ON THIS SUBJECT EMBASSY TRUSTS THAT MINISTRY WILL CONSULT WITH COMPETENT TOGOLESE AUTHORITIES IN TIME TO INSURE THAT ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA PRESENTED IN LIVE PERFORMANCE OF KOREAN ACROBATS WILL NOT BE BROADCAST OVER THE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT'S OWN TELEVISION STATION." (USUAL CLOSING).

4. BACKGROUND: NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA EFFORT IN TOGO IS ASSUMING EVEN GREATER PROPORTIONS. MAY 16 KOREAN EMBASSY
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SHOWED TOGOLESE PRESS CORPS MOTION PICTURE MADE IN TOGO BY NORTH KOREANS AS PERSONAL GIFT FROM KIM IL SUNG TO EYADEMA. FILM IS ENTITLED "TOGO UNDER THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND INDEPENDENT BANNER" AND PURPORTS SHOW TOGOLESE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR TOTAL INDEPENDENCE. MAY 19, MIN INFORMATION KWAQVI BENYI JOHNSON, WHO ALSO HEADS NORTH KOREAN-TOGOLESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, LEFT LOME FOR PYONG-YANG TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM EYADEMA TO KIM IL SUNG.

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